COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS is intended to provide quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). It is produced regularly throughout the academic year. This issue covers the months of May and June 2005.

Budget announcement means brighter days ahead for Ontario students

On May 11, 2005, the provincial government released its spring budget, making education, health and a strong economy its top priorities. Under the *Reaching Higher* initiative, postsecondary education and training will receive $6.2 billion more in funding between now and 2009-2010 – representing the largest, multi-year investment in postsecondary education and training in Ontario in 40 years.

The government's commitment to improving access, quality and excellence in higher education was met with enthusiasm by Ontario university leaders. In a press release issued on the day of the budget announcement, Richard Van Loon, Chair of the Council of Ontario Universities and President of Carleton University, said: "This is a great day for Ontario students, for our province and for the people of Ontario. We applaud Premier McGuinty for his leadership in making the importance of higher education so abundantly clear and, in doing so, for narrowing the gap between the quality of university education in Ontario and that provided by our economic competitors."

Dr. Van Loon went on to say: "Ontario's future is inextricably linked to the future of our students. The government's investment will enable universities across the province to plan for the long term and build on strengths that will ensure Ontario's prosperity and overall well-being in the new economy."

The budget's substantial investments in the day-to-day operations of universities will provide the platform to restore excellence in students' experiences in the classroom, the laboratory and beyond, and the addition of $130 million in 2004-2005 for repairs to university buildings will improve the overall quality of students' learning experiences.

The provision of full funding for all students will place Ontario universities in a much stronger position to serve the growing numbers of students who are seeking higher education in the province, and new student financial assistance initiatives – including the low-income tuition grant – will help ensure that qualified students will not be deprived of the opportunity to pursue a university degree because of inadequate funds.

The government's commitment of $100 million to fund graduate scholarships will help attract and retain more of the best and the brightest graduate students, enabling Ontario universities to graduate greater numbers of students with the advanced degrees that are in such high demand in our province.

Another budget measure, the $25 million Ontario Research Chairs, will increase the capacity of our universities to address public policy issues that are of social importance and that are vital to the economic prosperity of Ontario.

Ontario universities look forward to working with government to develop multi-year agreements that will not only enhance our institutions but also the economic and social well-being of Ontario.

Bob Rae honoured at year-end Council dinner

At its year-end dinner held in Toronto on May 26, 2005, Council continued its tradition of extending best wishes to departing Executive Heads *(see below)* and Academic Colleagues *(see page 3)*. Many political and government officials also attended the event, including former Premier Bob Rae who led the government-commissioned Postsecondary Review.

On behalf of Executive Heads, Council Chair Richard Van Loon presented Mr. Rae with an Award of Special Distinction to acknowledge his exceptional leadership and vision throughout the review process. Dr. Van Loon also paid tribute to the government, especially Premier Dalton McGuinty, Finance Minister Greg Sorbara and Training, Colleges and Universities Minister Mary Anne Chambers for consideration of the important recommendations included in Mr. Rae's report and for helping to make postsecondary education among the top priorities in the spring budget.

Four Executive Heads will be leaving office in 2005

Richard J. Van Loon took office as President and Vice-Chancellor of Carleton University on August 1, 1996, and was reappointed for a second, four-year term in 2001. In July 1, 2003, Dr. Van Loon took on the added role of Chair of Council for a term of two years.

Dr. Van Loon's distinguished career in government and academia has spanned some 30 years. He has held a number of senior positions with the federal government. Prior to his Carleton appointment, Dr. Van Loon was Associate Deputy Minister, Health Canada for two years. Before that, he was Associate Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. He has taught political studies at Queen's University and public administration at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Van Loon graduated from Carleton University with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry in 1961 and a master of arts degree in political science in 1965. He received his PhD in political studies from Queen's University in 1968.

Dr. Van Loon will be succeeded by Dr. David Atkinson, President of Brock University, as President of Carleton University on August 1, 2005, and by Dr. Ross Paul, President of the University of Windsor, as Chair of Council on July 1, 2005.

Claude Lajeunesse assumed the office of President and Vice-Chancellor of Ryerson University in September 1995. Before joining Ryerson, Dr. Lajeunesse served for seven years as President and CEO of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

He taught at l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, where he was Associate Professor in Engineering Physics (1970-71), Head of the Engineering Physics Division (1971-72) and Head of the Engineering Department (1972-74). He is a member of l'Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec and the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. He was also a member of the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee of the Fonds pour la Formation de Chercheurs et l'Aide à la recherche; General Manager of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers; and Director of Targeted Research for NSERC.

He earned his BSc in engineering physics from École Polytechnique, Université de Montréal, and his MSc and PhD in nuclear engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York.

Dr. Lajeunesse, who will assume the presidency of Concordia University, will be succeeded by Sheldon Levy, Vice-President, Finance and Strategy, University of Ontario Institute of Technology on August 1, 2005.

The ***Honourable Frank Iacobucci*** assumed the role of Interim President of the University of Toronto in September 2004.

Prof. Iacobucci has a long, distinguished history with the University of Toronto (U of T). A member of its Faculty of Law from 1967 to 1985, he served as Dean from 1979 to 1983. He also held two vice-presidential positions at the university – Vice-President, Internal Affairs (1975-78) and Vice-President and Provost (1983-85). In 1989, U of T awarded him an honorary degree in recognition of his contributions to the academic discipline and profession of law.

Outside the university, Prof. Iacobucci has held national roles as Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada (1985-88), Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada (1988-91) and, most recently, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1991-2004).

Among many other activities, he has served as Vice-President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, Vice-President and Governor of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, and Chair of the Ontario Law Deans. He has received numerous awards in Italy and eight honorary degrees in Canada and Italy, and is an Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

A native of Vancouver, Prof. Iacobucci received his BComm and LLB from the University of British Columbia, and his LLM and a Diploma in International Law from Cambridge University.

Prof. Iacobucci will be succeeded by Dr. David Naylor, Dean of U of T's Faculty of Medicine and Vice-Provost, on October 1, 2005.

Ron Shuebrook took office as President of the Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) in December 2000. Prof. Shuebrook joined OCAD in 1998 as the newly established Vice-President Academic and maintained the position for a couple of years after he assumed the presidency.

Prior to OCAD, Prof. Shuebrook had held many faculty and administrative appointments during his over 30-year career in Canada and in the U.S., in addition to his international career as an exhibiting artist. He was Professor and Chair of the Department of Fine Art, and the founding Co-ordinator of the MFA program in Studio Art at the University of Guelph. Previous positions have included Associate Professor and Chair of the Studio Division, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design; Executive Director, Ottawa School of Art; Associate Professor of Visual Arts and Co-ordinator of the Art in Education program, York University; Assistant Professor of Art, Art History and Art Education, Acadia University; and Instructor in the Department of Art and Co-ordinator of the Emma Lake Summer School, University of Saskatchewan.

Prof. Shuebrook holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Kutztown University, Pennsylvania, and an MFA in studio art from Kent State University, Ohio.

He will be succeeded by Sara Diamond, Director of Research, Banff Centre, and Artistic Director, Banff New Media Institute, effective July 1, 2005.

Council bids farewell to five Academic Colleagues

In addition to the departure of four Executive Heads, Council bid farewell to five Academic Colleagues in 2005:

- Dr. Leslie Pal, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University;
- Dr. Alan Sparkes, Department of Sociology, Nipissing University;
- Dr. Patrick Oosthuizen, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Queen's University;
- Dr. Kevin McQuillan, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario; and
- Dr. Linda McKay, Faculty of Education, University of Windsor.

Review of service delivery and operations focus of CSAO meeting at Brock

On May 2 and 3, 2005, the Council of Senior Administrative Officers (CSAO), chaired by Karen Belaire, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, McMaster University, reviewed the work underway to implement a new model of service delivery for the University Health Insurance Plan. Additionally, CSAO discussed its role in a review of the operations of the Canadian Universities Reciprocal Insurance Exchange that will result in recommendations to better serve the universities.

The meeting, which was held at Brock University, also included an update from Jacques Samson, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Business Officers, and a presentation by Ruth Todd, CA, of KPMG, on the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' new financial reporting requirements that will affect universities. While at Brock, CSAO members saw first hand the university's infrastructure improvements for students including new computer labs and a new sporting facility, and were given a tour of the facilities used in Brock's unique viticulture program.

At the meeting, CSAO members also bid farewell to Murray Green, VP, Administration and Finance, Nipissing University. Murray, who is retiring in 2005, was applauded for his many years of service to the university community and for his contributions to not only CSAO but also CUPA.

COU updates three financial reports on Ontario universities

COU recently released, under the auspices of the Council of Finance Officers-Universities of Ontario (COFO-UO), two updates of financial and statistical information on Ontario universities:

- *Financial Report of Ontario Universities 2003-04, Volume I – Universities;* and
- *Financial Report of Ontario Universities 2003-04, Volume II – Affiliated and Federated Colleges and Universities.*

A third report will be released in summer 2005 and posted on COU's web site (www.cou.on.ca):

- *Compendium of Statistical and Financial Information – Ontario Universities 2003-04.*

Selection Panel for Ontario Research Chairs established

On May 26, 2005, COU announced the members of the Selection Panel that will oversee the process for the establishment of Ontario Research Chairs at universities across the province. The Chair of the Panel is Dr. David Strangway, former President and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Past President of the University of British Columbia; and its Secretary is Dr. Harry Swain, a management consultant and former Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Industry.

Panel members are Judith Maxwell, founding President of the Canadian Policy Research Networks; Dr. Arthur May, Past President of Memorial University and former President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC); and Dr. Harold Shapiro, President Emeritus of Princeton University and former President of the University of Michigan.

In the 2005 Budget, the government committed $25 million to establish the Chairs, which will focus on leading-edge research in eight key areas of public policy. For more information on the program, visit the Chairs web site (http://orc.cou.on.ca).

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